

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NEAE-00 IO-13 SSM-03 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 AF-10 MC-02
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P R 221353Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7562
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USIA WASHDC
NSC WHITE HOUSE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EG US IS XF
SUBJ: EGYPTIAN REACTION TO BEGIN VISIT

REF: CAIRO 12145

SUMMARY: MEDIA COVERAGE OF BEGIN VISIT MINIMAL AND STILL
RESTRAINED BUT BEGINNING BETRAY SOME FRUSTRATIONS. NO
OFFICIAL COMMENT YET; SADAT MAY REFER TO VISIT IN SPEECH
NIGHT OF JULY 22. EGYPTIANS BELIEVE WHAT PRESIDENT
CARTER SAYS, NOT BEGIN, IS WHAT MATTERS AND SOME ARE
OPTIMISTIC THAT PRESIDENT'S CONFERENCE GENEVA WILL BE HELD
MEANS MOVEMENT TOWARDS SETTLEMENT CONTINUES. END SUMMARY

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1. BEGIN VISIT RECEIVED MINIMAL SPACE IN PRESS JULY 22.
MOST PROMINENT ITEM WAS REPORT THAT AMBASSADOR DELIVERED
"MESSAGE" TO FONMIN FAHMY ON CARTER-BEGIN TALKS. OTHER ITEMS
REPORTED WASHINGTON SOURCES SAY TALKS ENDED WITH AGREEMENT ON
MEASURES TO CONVENE GENEVA CONFERENCE BUT DIFFERENCES OVER
IMPORTANT ISSUES REMAIN. "OBSERVERS" IN WASHINGTON BELIEVE
BEGIN PURPOSELY PLACING OBSTACLES TO CONVENING OF CONFERENCE

IN KNOWLEDGE THAT ARABS WILL REFUSE TO ATTEND IF PLO NOT ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE.

2. COMMENTS BY JODY POWELL ALSO REPORTED: CARTER AND BEGIN DISAGREED ON QUESTIONS OF PALESTINIAN HOMELAND, PARTICIPATION BY PALESTINIANS IN MEPC AND ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS. ACCORDING "WELL-INFORMED U.S. SOURCES", PRESIDENT CARTER ASKED FOR HALT TO SETTLEMENT ACTIVITY IN PERIOD BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT BEGIN REFUSED SUGGESTION CATEGORICALLY, ISRAELI SOURCES IN WASHINGTON ALSO CITED FOR REPORT THAT DAYAN WILL VISIT IN SEPTEMBER AFTER UNGA, AND THAT USG WILL ANNOUNCE SHORTLY AGREEMENT ON FURNISHING 90-150 F-16'S TO ISRAEL ALONG WITH 100 MILLION DOLLARS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TANKS, HELICOPTERS AND HYDROFOIL VESSELS.

3. STILL NO OFFICIAL GOE COMMENT. SOME FRUSTRATION, HOWEVER, BEGINNING TO POKE THROUGH FACADE OF RESERVE THAT PRESS IS MAINTAINING. GUMHURIYYA REPORTED BEGIN PEACE PLAN REJECTED OUT OF HAND BY ENTIRE ARAB WORLD AND BY MOST ISRAELIS AS WELL AND QUESTIONED WHETHER PLAN A STEP TOWARDS WAR. REJECTION OF PLO PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA IS "TOTAL DISREGARD" OF INTERNATIONAL LEGITIMACY OF PLO ESTABLISHED BY WORLD OPINION. ARAB WITHDRAWAL DEMANDS ARE NO PRECONDITION TO NEGOTIATIONS SINCE WITHDRAWAL IS "FOREGONE, UNNEGOTIABLE CONCLUSION". GENEVA CONFERENCE WILL NOT FOCUS ON WITHDRAWAL QUESTION BUT ON ARRANGEMENTS OF SETTLEMENT AFTER WITHDRAWAL.
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4. ARAB ACTIVITY. AHAM HAS "LEARNED" THAT ARAB CONFRONTATION STATES PRESENTLY DISCUSSING VANCE MISSION COORDINATE ATTITUDE ON QUESTIONS "WHICH ENJOY INTERNATIONAL AS WELL AS U.S. SUPPORT", SPECIFICALLY ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, ESTABLISHMENT OF PALESTINIAN STATE ON WEST BANK AND GAZA AND ENDING STATE OF WAR. CONTACTS REPORTED UNDERWAY FOR HOLDING LIMITED SUMMIT OF CONFRONTATION STATES BEFORE GENEVA (I.E. AFTER VANCE VISIT, AS GOE PREFERS) AND SAUDI ARABIA TO DISCUSS NEXT ARAB MOVES AND AGREE ON FORMAT FOR ARAB REPRESENTATION AT GENEVA.

5. COMMENT. WHILE MANY EGYPTIANS HAVE HAD HOPES FOR BEGIN-CARTER CONFRONTATION FRUSTRATED AND ARE UNHAPPY WITH ABSENCE OF SIGNS OF "PROGRESS" FOR ARAB CAUSE IN PUBLIC REPORTS OF TALKS, OTHER MORE OPTIMISTIC. FOR MANY, WHAT MATTERS IS WHAT PRESIDENT SAYS, NOT BEGIN; SOME FEEL THAT PRESIDENT'S PUBLIC CONFIDENCE THAT GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE HELD INDICATES DOOR STILL OPEN AND MOVEMENT TOWARDS SETTLEMENT CONTINUES. GOE, PERHAPS SOMEWHAT DISTRACTED BY SEVERE TENSIONS WITH LIBYA, SEEMS UNDECIDED WHAT PUBLIC TACK TO TAKE. SADAT SADAT ADDRESSES "IMPORTANT POLITICAL SPEECH" TO NATION TONIGHT. FOCUS WILL BE

LIBYA AND DOMESTIC AFFAIRS BUT IT SEEMS LIKELY PRESIDENT WILL
ALSO REFER TO BEGIN VISIT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO12236
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770262-0473
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770730/aaaaazua.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9dbfea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 CAIRO 12145
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1782579
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPTIAN REACTION TO BEGIN VISIT
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP, EG, US, IS, XF, (BEGIN, MENAHEM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9dbfea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009